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Wulustuk Times

Wulustuk - Indigenous name for St John
River

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Wulustuk Times:

Each month we gather and publish the latest, most current and relevant native information for our readers. Proceeding with this concept, we feel that a well informed person is better able to see, relate with, and assess a situation more accurately when equipped with the right tools. Our aim is to provide you with the precise tools and the best information possible.

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DIM FUTURE AHEAD FOR RIVERS AROUND THE WORLD INCLUDING THE WULUSTUK

p.paul

No river is safe, secure, clean and unpolluted anywhere in the world today because there is so much human waste, garbage and industrial poisons, toxins and every kind of containment entering all water systems around the world.

This man-created global contamination is not limited to just inland waters alone, the wastage is spread so wide and deep that even the great seas around the world are becoming sick, polluted and at risk.

So the problem is not just a local dilemma or concern to be reckoned with, it in fact is a universal and growing problem that threatens every person, every creature, in every town, city, community, the smallest hamlet in rural areas.

Water from our rivers that we once took for granted as being pure, pristine and universally clean and available for every human need is now a thing of the past. We've messed it up. We're in a jam.

A relatively small river like the Wulustuk here in N.B .Canada is no exception for quality by any means, nor is it better than any other river in the world. We have poisoned and thickened our precious river so badly it has turned almost into a river of waste containing the worst contaminants one can imagine because our misuse, reuse and careless treatment has turned it into a cesspool or a waste-depository for every foul contaminant or effluent from our homes, towns, farms, factories, forestry run-offs, along with tonnes of industrial wastes flowing from the processing plants.

Our disregard and lack of care and concern for clean water during the past century has brought us to the brink of disaster, a water crisis, without clean fresh water left in our rivers.

The only good potable water we have today comes from the small plastic containers that are sold at the local convenience store for a buck-and-a-half, or more.

We all must start realizing that life's most precious gift, our water, is fast coming to a critical stage and it will take all of us to bring our waters and rivers back to the quality they were before we got on this twisted road of abuse, misuse, greed and lack of concern for clean water.

The following article by Nogeegadunkut, gives us a wider view and a better perspective of the dilemma we face regarding our waters and rivers, starting from our own precious Woolustok river here in New Brunswick. And from there he takes us on a fascinating journey where he explores the situations and conditions that exist in other bodies of waters and rivers, great and small, around the world.

PRESERVING THE SACRED WOLASTOG

Who owns the mighty Wolastoq? Canada or United States? It flows through both countries. You don't know. Let me help you. Answer this question: Who owns the rain that falls from the firmament? It is the rain that fills the small streams and brooks that flow through the forests into the valleys of the watershed areas that join together and become united into this one beautiful and powerful river. Every rain drop that falls to the earth goes on a journey to the ocean, joining with others, soaking into the ground, filling wells and springs, making brooks, streams and rivers, passing through forests and cities, and even through you and me. On its journey it picks up all sorts of debris, organic waste materials, and by this action it cleanses the Earth Mother, depositing its contents into the ocean where the salt and other living things purify it. There at the ocean it once again rises through evaporation into the heavens, refreshed and purified to come down once again on the mountains and forests, rejuvenating them, repeating its continuous cycle. No human beings own the rain and no human beings own the Wolastoq.

But wait. What I have described is the way it used to be before Europeans came to this land of the dawn and brought industrialization and agriculture, today called agribusiness. The story has changed. The debris the raindrops pick up on their journey today have other life threatening chemicals and toxins in them. The very atmosphere above us, into which the rising mists and vapors gather to make the clouds, is polluted. Its function as a life giving cleansing agent is impaired. And yet these very polluters believe they own the rivers and they make their laws about how to manage the rivers and lakes their way. Their culture ignores the natural laws, the most ancient laws of the creator of these waters. To them the waters are a "resource" that they can use in industrial plants, or to irrigate crops, or as a cesspool to dump their wastes into.

Pure, clean drinking water is become harder to find. Fresh spring water is no longer something we take for granted as always being available as did previous generations. In fact we bottle it and sell it as if it were a product that some company has a patent to own and sell. But nobody can own the water. It owns us. In fact, on average, 78% of a newborn baby is water. In adult men, about 60% of their bodies are water. Women have about 55% of their bodies made of water. It has a majority share in us.

Nations can claim boundaries around regions of land that are fixed, but water moves continually. Glaciers melt into streams that flow through valleys passing through the territories claimed by mankind, across all manmade boundaries, from nation to nation, county to county, farm to farm, even cutting mountains in two over time as it continues its never ending journey to the sea. You can dam a river, but you can't contain it and prevent it from continuing its journey to the sea. Water is evidence of the motions and cycles of life and the power they hold. Water is sacred. It is the one element that all living creatures need in common. It binds us all together in a relationshipand we become "all our relations." If I pollute your water, I pollute my own. It is all the same water. As an old joke goes, "You can't have a non-peeing section in a swimming pool." It won't work.

Freshwater animal species, snails, mussels, turtles, frogs, and fish are disappearing four to six times as fast as animals on the land and in the salt water oceans. This is because our industries, our agriculture and our cities are almost all concentrated alongside or near rivers, streams and lakes into which their residues and wastes eventually end up.

How long will the Wolastoq be here? In other parts of the world rivers are drying up, and where they haven't, they are so polluted that fish and other water animals no longer live in them. In fact, it is stated that over half the rivers and lakes in the world are polluted. In some places the rivers have been sucked dry by increasing human populations, industry and agriculture.

Agriculture is one of the chief causes of water supplies being depleted and polluted. In the upper watershed regions of the Wolastoq there are vast open exposed farmlands in the surrounding areas of Woodstock, Bath, New Denmark, Grand Falls, Fort Fairfield, and Presque Isle. Water drains off far too quickly when the rains fall, and as the snow melts in the spring. Irrigation is used to grow the crops. Fertilizers, pesticides and fungicides seep into the water tables.

See some images of these areas at this web site: <http://www.wiwoni.com/stewards/>

Now consider a few examples from around our planet that give us an idea of what could happen here some day if we do not treat our river with respect, as a source of life, not just a resource. It is sacred.

The Los Angeles River in California was once a free flowing river that supplied drinking water to the early inhabitants and settlers. Today it has been converted to a manmade concrete channel with no natural shores, no riverbed bottom, and no vegetation, and what water is left in it is so polluted it is unsafe to drink. California has been called "the most hydrologically altered landmass on the planet. Massive changes to the landscape have taken place there. There are water reservoirs where there once was dry desert, agriculture land where there was once marshlands, and some rivers have been purposely drained dry. California has become one of the world's leading agricultural and food production regions. This has been made possible because of how it has developed its water sources. Water development, storage and distribution projects have transformed deserts into farmland and supported development of large cities and towns. At one time sparsely populated like New Brunswick, California has now become the most populated state in the country, and the eighth largest economy in the world.

However, this transformation has come at the expense of Mother Earth. Fish populations have been depleted, wetlands have been drained and destroyed, and dams and levees have altered natural water flow patterns. Species of many native plants and animals have declined or become extinct, and water quality has been impaired by agriculture, mining and urban demands. Read more about this in National Geographics special Water issue, April, 2010 or visit their web site at: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2010/04/table-of-contents>

The Colorado River is another example of misuse of water. It used to flow all the way to the Pacific Ocean but today the river continues to get smaller and smaller as it flows and it disappears before it's reached the Pacific Ocean. Water is being used to extinction. The Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security sponsored a scientific study of this disturbing phenomenon. The conclusion was that agriculture is the single largest user of the water, consuming almost one-half of total inflows for irrigating over a million acres of croplands. You can read more about this in their report: "Missing Water, The Uses and Flows of Water in the Colorado River Delta Region". It can be found at this link:

http://www.pacinst.org/reports/missing_water/missing_water_report_web.pdf

Now let's move to another part of our planet. The Aral sea sits between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. At one time it was the fourth largest sea in the world. It is now only 10 % of its original size, too salty and polluted to support fish. It is now considered to be three lakes. The Socyberly web site

describes it this way: "This used to be a sea thriving with fish. There used to be marshes teeming with wildlife along some shores, sandy beaches on others. In fact the Aral Sea, and surrounding area was so teeming with life it was often compared to many places in Africa for terms of biodiversity. When the sea began to die, people, no longer able to make their livelihood on the fisheries, lost their homes, their ways of life.....Two rivers used to flow into the Aral Sea, the Syr Darya and Amu Darya. Plans for an intensive agriculture system were about to change all this. The Aral seas road to obscurity began in the 1960's when water was diverted to irrigate farm land. Cotton production was the name of the game. Millions of liters of water which would normally replenish the sea were being used to grow crops in the surrounding desert regions. Today the two rivers are often so drained they are completely dry by the time they get to the Aral Sea." (from Socyberty web site). For more details visit their site at this link:

<http://socyberty.com/activism/how-to-make-an-entire-sea-disappear/#ixzz0r4Ahj8Bd>

Another example. The 928 Km Ebro River in Spain, rises near the Atlantic coast in the Cantabrian Mountains and drains a triangular basin between the Pyrenees and the Iberian Mountains, before emptying through a wide delta into the Mediterranean sea. The Spanish government's National Hydrological Plan is going to shift water from this river basin and direct it to the southern province of Almeria. They are doing this because Almeria is the site of intensive agriculture, primarily greenhouse culture, with hundreds of trucks taking produce directly to supermarkets in northern Europe on a daily basis. These greenhouses along with golf courses, hotels and housing developments in Almeria province are using far more water than the existing underground aquifer sources can provide. Consequently sea-water is intruding and turning the aquifers saline, while the rivers in this region have completely dried up. Greenhouses now cover these parched riverbeds. They need another source of fresh water.

It isn't unreasonable to speculate that "water wars" might become inevitable among some nations in the near future. Water has become a major factor in recent disputes in the Middle East. The Euphrates and Jordan rivers are shared by several countries, just as the Wolastoq is shared by both United States and Canada. The watershed areas of Maine, Quebec and New Brunswick all drain into the Wolastoq. In watershed areas of the Jordan River Basin and the Tigris-Euphrates Basin, water is shared among several countries. Israel uses the greatest amount of water available in the basin, and next to them is Jordan. The immense Euphrates River, which is in the land of ancient Babylon, is Syria's main source of water, and it is drying up, wiping out farms along its banks, leaving fishermen destitute. The populations of small towns are shrinking as farmers leave for the cities looking for jobs. Poorly designed and maintained "leaky" canals and wasteful irrigation practices squandered the water, and poor drainage left fields salty from evaporated water. The Euphrates is significantly smaller than it was just a few years ago. Some officials worry that it could soon be half of what it is now. As for the Jordan River, Israeli scientists predict that large areas of the Jordan river could dry up completely by 2011, and that would affect the Dead Sea, into which the river flows. What remains at present is mostly a canal of waste water. The Syrians to the north of Israel are being blamed for much of the river's shrinkage. Dozens of dams built on the Yarmouk River and its tributaries by the Syrians have caused the reduction of discharge into the Jordan River. When the water supplies go dry, or become so polluted they are unfit to drink, then tempers can flare. Will Canada and United States always share the rivers that flow through both of them without any discord?

So you think this could never happen here in bountiful Wolastoq land? Well, the truth is that we already have dying and dead lakes in the Maritimes and the rest of Canada. There are over 14,000 dead or dying lakes in eastern Canada, and at least 100 in Nova Scotia, primarily from acid rain drifting over us from the big industrial plants west of us in the United States and Canada. Clouds know no boundaries. I was unable to find statistical information on New Brunswick's lakes. Perhaps nobody cares enough to have checked for our dead lakes. Manufacturing industry, mining, nuclear and oil fired electric plants, and agriculture are some of the biggest contributors to water and air contamination. The big corporations pollute in their reckless haste for making huge profits, and the innocent taxpayers pay to have it cleaned up, if ever. Time and time again we hear in the news about major environmental disasters caused by these government sanctioned pillagers of the environment.

Government wants our Maritime population to grow. Why? Because of the economic benefits. To whom? To the government and municipalities (through taxes). To the big corporations and their executives, the elite who have the biggest carbon footprints, the most greedy and selfish of all humanity. They will enjoy their short-term affluence at the expense of future generations. The government for decades now has encouraged people to move close to the cities and away from rural areas. At one point a few years ago they were trying to pass legislation to enforce a minimum size rural property of five acres instead of the current one acre size. This would make purchasing properties in rural areas more expensive and make urban properties more appealing. Apparently that plan has been set aside for now. The urban areas are growing along the Wolastoq watershed, while the farmlands and backlands are being abandoned. Granted, that relieves humankind's pressure in those areas where nature reclaims the old farms and homesteads, but it concentrates the waste pollutants along the river. There are also private groups attempting to increase the usage of the Wolastoq to market the river region as a tourist destination for boating and other recreations in the towns and cities that are situated along it. There was a concern that the new Trans Canada highway took traffic away from the river and ways were needed to draw the crowds back..... to stimulate the economy.

When faced with job creation and profits in light of known environmental damage, government will put jobs and economy first. They think in the short term because each political party that forms a government only lasts for the short term. The federal government is actually using legislative powers to sanctify mining companies using fresh water lakes for tailing ponds of mining operations. In the news at the time of this writing, a coalition of environmental groups called the Sandy Pond Alliance in Newfoundland is taking the Harper government to court over a legal loophole they claim lets mining companies dump toxic waste into the water. The Alliance wants to overturn an amendment to the Canadian Fisheries Act that allows mining companies to reclassify dead lakes and rivers as "tailings impoundment areas." Prior to the amendment it was illegal to pollute a pond that has fish in it, but an amendment to the act allows a company to dump mine tailings into fish-bearing ponds as long there is an approved compensation plan. Companies are required to empty lakes and rivers of their aquatic life before putting tailings into them. Therefore they wouldn't be killing any fish or other aquatic creatures. Wow! What a crafty solution for getting around the legal constraints. An alliance spokesperson likened this to a Third World development strategy. This is a threat to many more lakes across Canada.

I have a suggestion to our government officials at all levels who draft the rules, regulations and legislation about water, its use and its protection; – listen to the Elders of the First Peoples and their teachings, their traditional oral teachings, to guide you in developing water policies for today's world.

They will teach you about the spirits in the waters, and you will learn that they are sacred waters. The Wolastoq is more than a resource and a commodity.

I would highly recommend that they and others read the thesis document written by Cheryl Darlene Sanderson of Manitoba, "Nipiy Wasekimew / Clear Water: The Meaning of Water From the Words of the Elders" 2008. It can be viewed on the Internet at this web address: <http://ir.lib.sfu.ca/bitstream/1892/10397/1/etd4106.pdf>

In her thesis she shows how the traditional teachings of Elders can shape the policies that government decisions makers and legislators implement about water. It is also a valuable guide for anyone in First Nations communities attempting to address water issues and find solutions.

In closing I leave this suggestion. That more government officials and hired consultants attend talking circles like the ones Traditional Grand Chief Dan Ennis conducts. The participants sit in a circle around a fire in the fresh air of the Tobique wilderness on the shore of a lake or river. There amidst the four elements that the creator gave us - water, fire, earth and air, and the sound of the sacred drum that reflects the heartbeat of Mother Earth, wise counsel will be found collectively with all our relations.

If the government bureaucrats are looking for advice from prominent white leaders, then here are some words from President Lyndon B. Johnson:

"If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it."

..... all my relations, Nugeekadoonkut

WORKING TO IMPROVE FISH HABITAT IN NEW BRUNSWICK

OTTAWA, July 02 -- The Canadian Government has issued following press release: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and New Brunswick Power Generation Corporation (NB Power) recently signed an agreement to improve fish habitat on the St. John River. The agreement focuses on identifying, prioritizing, and developing approaches to mitigate impacts to fish and fish habitat from NB Power hydroelectric facilities. The first meeting of both parties to discuss implementation of the agreement is occurring today in NB.

"This agreement is a positive step forward in ensuring the conservation of fish habitat in the St. John River" said Faith Scattolon, Regional Director General of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Maritimes Region. "It recognizes both the economic importance of hydroelectric generation and fish habitat to the community." She added that the agreement provides an avenue for both agencies to work together, to identify and mitigate current habitat issues, and to collaborate on emerging issues as they arise.

"Signing this agreement is an important step in NB Power's vision of Sustainable Electricity," stated Gaetan Thomas, President and CEO, NB Power. "To ensure that we have sustainable electricity we need to meet the needs of today while ensuring the future. We will achieve this through activities

that balance our economic, environmental and social objectives - the three pillars of sustainability. To be successful, we know that we must seek new and innovative solutions as we work together in a collaborative effort. This protocol agreement demonstrates how we are moving forward in the right direction."

Hydro power production facilities on the St. John River were developed decades ago, before some of the current measures to conserve fish habitat were in place, and continue to have residual impacts on fish and fish habitat in the river. The agreement will assist both parties to focus on mitigating these residual effects.

The first phase of the agreement will focus on identifying and prioritizing opportunities to mitigate fish and fish habitat impacts from NB Power hydroelectric generation facilities. Once this is complete, the focus will be on developing and implementing an action plan to address the priority issues identified.

Through this agreement, DFO and NB Power will address fish and fish habitat concerns, some of which have been identified by stakeholders. Stakeholders will continue to be engaged in St. John River habitat and fisheries management consultation processes

ALARMING WATER WASTE IN CANADA

Canadians who depend on the Great Lakes for their municipal water supply are wasting staggering amounts of water that could easily be saved, according to a new report from a national environmental advocacy group.

The report from the Torontobased Environmental Defence says that Ontario and Quebec residents who live in the Great Lakes region waste 580 billion litres of water each year -about the equivalent of running a low-flow shower for 110,000 years.

Mike Layton, the group's deputy outreach director, says the enormous waste levels could be reduced if people made more of an effort to cut back on household water use.

"It's the volumes that are probably the most alarming," Layton said yesterday. "There's all this waste going on when we know (water supplies) are under threat by global warming, we know it's under threat by more people and that we're wasting so much when we know it can impact our quality of life is surprising.

"It's certainly not a monumental task to make some of these changes."

Layton said the Canadian national average for water use in 329 litres per day for every person in the country. By contrast, he said, some European countries have an average of about 150 litres per day.

The report, titled Down the Drain: Water Conservation in the Great Lakes Basin, based its findings mostly on data from Statistics Canada, as well as reports from the federal and municipal governments. It found that replacing old toilets with more efficient models had the greatest potential for savings in Canadian homes.

For example, Layton said, a toilet is flushed roughly seven times a day by Canadians. If the toilet was a low-flow toilet, which uses about six litres every time it's flushed, conservation levels would instantly improve because standard-flow toilets use about 16.5 litres per flush.

The report said getting rid of older toilets would save a total of 213 billion litres annually, which could essentially provide the entire city of Toronto with household water for a full year.

For outdated washing machines, an all-encompassing upgrade to high-efficiency models would mean an annual savings of about 162 billion litres, the report said, while a conversion to low-flow shower heads would save an additional 65 billion litres. Layton noted, however, that only about 17 per cent of Canadian households use newer high-efficiency washers.

Layton said at this rate, water wastage will continue to increase if changes are not made, both by governing bodies and individual households.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FACING THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Although several well-publicized cases of drinking water contamination have affected Aboriginals over the past several decades (e.g., James Bay, Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River), most Aboriginal water contamination problems are less-well publicized, small-scale in nature, and many are yet undetected. These contamination sources are on or near reserves and can include domestic wastewater disposal, solid waste (garbage) dumps, industries, agriculture, and roadways. In many situations, the problems have arisen because of a lack of education and awareness of good water management practices and consequently, many of these potential water quality problems could be quickly and effectively addressed locally with only minor need for outside technical assistance.

We are developing and promoting the initiative of the "Water Grandmother" (Samaqan Nuhkomoss, Samuqwan Mi'kiju); a Maliseet person who would visit with First Nations communities across New Brunswick to raise awareness and where possible, address local water quality issues.

The science and technical support regarding water quality will be provided by the Canadian River Institute (CRI) and its partners in the provincial and federal governments. In addition, the CRI involvement will provide the window and access point to post-secondary education opportunities in environmental management that will arise from the Water Grandmother's work in the local communities.

FIRST NATIONS EXEMPT FROM HST

Chief William Montour, Six Nations of the Grand River, has declared a victory in the battle for Ontario First Nations point of sale (POS) exemption from provincial sales tax.

"I'm sure this activity will provide great relief to a lot of First Nations people who are on fixed incomes or low incomes because, without this exemption, every purchase after July 1 would have cost them 13 cents on every dollar," said Montour.

POS exemption from the provincial tax portion of the harmonized sales tax will continue for community members and off-reserve members who have valid Certificates of Indian Status. The exemption will apply to on-reserve purchases and eligible purchases made in outside communities.

Over the next two months, Canada Revenue Agency will make necessary changes to its new electronic system so POS exemption can return at cash registers.

Receipts for purchases made between July 1 and August 31 can be submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Revenue for refunds. Refund requests must be made by Nov. 1.

Montour gave credit to officials who helped, saying, "We are extremely pleased about the extensive work done by people like Mr. Lewis Staats, Deputy Grand Chief Chris McCormick of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee of Union of Ontario Indians, legal advisor David Nahwegabow and all other members of the working group." Over the past year, the Political Confederacy (PC) of the Chiefs of Ontario played a vital role by moving ahead with the Memorandum of Understanding with Ontario, which basically brought Canada to the table, said Montour. Under the MOU, Ontario pledged to work with the federal government to include POS exemption.

On June 17, federal, provincial and First Nations officials issued a press release announcing the new agreement between all three parties.

For 30 years, POS exemption was an administrative function but in September, it will have a legislative framework, stated Montour. It's ironic that the person who originally worked on this exemption was Lewis Staats as an individual with the Six Nations Merchants Association, he added. On June 18, Montour's office received numerous emails from many First Nations, expressing gratitude for leaders and communities that kept pressure on both governments.

FIRST NATIONS CONTINUE HST PROTEST DESPITE AGREEMENT

- CP

TORONTO — First Nations leaders are ready to roll out blockades across Ontario even though they expect to reach an accord by Friday with Ottawa and the province for a break under the new harmonized sales tax.

A study done by Fred Lazar, at York University says the deal would save residents of aboriginal communities between 85 (m) million and 120 (m) million dollars in the first year of the new tax. The protests are set to kick off Monday morning with a blockade of the railway in Batchewana First Nation, a community near Sault Ste. Marie.

Residents of the K-I (Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug) First Nation, a fly-in community 600 kilometres north of Thunder Bay, are also planning to participate in the blockade.

But the protest will be called off once First Nations leaders ink the tax deal with the federal and Ontario governments.

Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse says he anticipates an announcement by Friday. (Globe and Mail)

ATLANTIC CHIEF SEEKS TAX BREAK TOO

- CP

OTTAWA - A potential tax break for Ontario's First Nations has an Atlantic Canada chief wondering whether his community can get one as well.

An announcement could come by the end of this week that Ontario's First Nations have won their battle to be fully exempted from the provincial portion of the new harmonized sales tax.

A spokesman for the Union of Ontario Indians would say only that talks are underway, out of concern that any other information could jeopardize a deal.

"It's like a labour negotiation. There are times when you talk and times not to talk," said Maurice Switzer.

The campaign against it has included blockades, threats of highway tolls and suggestions of protests at the G8 and G20 meetings in Ontario, which begin later this month.

While the HST doesn't come into effect in Ontario or British Columbia until July, it's been in place in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland since 1997.

When it was introduced, First Nations there lost the same right Ontario is fighting to keep: an exemption from provincial tax at the point of sale.

Instead, First Nations in Atlantic Canada were given an exemption only if the goods were bought on or delivered to reserves, which is now the practice across Canada.

"I guess at that time, one we didn't have the numbers of Ontario. And two, we didn't have the G8," said Rick Simon, the Assembly of First Nations' regional chief for Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Simon said First Nations leaders in the Atlantic provinces will be watching any potential Ontario deal closely.

He said they've been told for years that the federal government wasn't interested in negotiating with them on tax issues.

"If they've made concessions to Ontario, obviously that would strengthen our negotiations in the Atlantic to get taxation back on the table with the federal government," he said.

"Either that or obviously somebody's just blowing smoke over fear of the G8 and disruption that might come out of Ontario."

He advised Ontario First Nations to get any deal on taxes in writing.

ONTARIO FIRST NATIONS GET HST EXEMPTION

- CP Agreement | HST takes effect July 1

TORONTO - The federal government agreed Thursday to Ontario's request to give First Nations a point-of-sale exemption on the harmonized sales tax, but blamed the province for mishandling the issue.

Ontario First Nations have been exempt from the provincial sales tax for decades, and were threatening road closures during next week's G8 and G20 summits if they didn't get an HST exemption. Ontario's Liberal government has maintained it always wanted First Nations to have the right not to pay the HST at point-of-sale, and said it was Ottawa's fault the exemption hadn't been allowed. However, in a letter obtained by The Canadian Press, dated June 17, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says Ontario didn't bother to ask for the exemption on time, but Ottawa has decided to allow it anyway.

"The decision to adopt the HST framework is for provinces to make," Flaherty wrote to Ontario Finance Minister Dwight Duncan.

"Last year I had communicated to you a firm deadline of June 30, 2009, for Ontario to inform the government of Canada of its list of desired point-of-sale rebates. Although Ontario did not respect this deadline ... the government of Canada has worked diligently to accommodate your decision and the needs of Ontario First Nations."

Ontario Revenue Minister John Wilkinson said the province managed to secure other exemptions requested after Flaherty's deadline, and accused Ottawa of dragging its feet on the HST exemption for First Nations.

"Up until recently, the province of Ontario and the federal government were not on the same page about this," Wilkinson said in an interview.

"We were frustrated that we were unable to have First Nations, the government of Ontario and the government of Canada in the same room to work this out."

The HST takes effect July 1, less than two weeks away, but the point-of-sale exemption for First Nations won't be in place until September.

Wilkinson said talks are underway with First Nations about how to deal with the HST in July and August.

DAN'S CORNER - ON THE THEFT OF OUR HOMELAND

Some 500 years ago some white Europeans invaded my home. In the home invasion about 95% of my family was killed off by those white invaders.

In a similar home invasion at the home of our brothers the Beothuk all of the Beothuk were killed off by the white Europeans, so we wonder still today why we were not also all killed off.

The few of us who were not killed off by the white Europeans were rounded up and locked up in the basement of our home in cells called Indian Reservations. Initially we were not allowed to leave these cells without permission.

Conditions on these reservations were harsh, cold, riddled with European diseases and our diets were very near the starvation level. Many more of our people died off as a result of the harsh and near starvation conditions.

Over time the original perpetrators of the home invasion died off leaving their illegitimate and ill-gotten gains to their offspring, who in turn left it to their offspring and so on.

At some point those white Europeans wished to create their "own" nation state along with an identity which was not made in Europe but one that was made in Canada. So these white Europeans began referring to our home as their home, gave it the Indian name of Canada and began referring to themselves as Canadians.

They created legislation and laws on how their newfound home would function and operate and be governed, all to the exclusion of those original homeowners.

Treaties were a device utilized by the white Europeans in their attempt at legitimizing their criminal and immoral actions. They wrote their treaties to their liking and, at the point of a gun, forced our people to sign them.

At the same time that those white Europeans were annihilating our people and stealing our land they also sent in their shock troops, the religious ones, to work at Christianizing and civilizing and converting and controlling our people in an attempt to create "good" and compliant brown-skinned white Europeans. This particular tactic is today bearing fruit.

Now to bring my Indian perspective of the criminal act of home invasion into the present. What we have is a very serious criminal act perpetrated by white Europeans against our people which is still unresolved, simply because the victimizers have a very strong vested interest in maintaining the status quo.

It has to be the status quo or, for white Europeans, their house of cards will come falling down built as it is upon genocide, hatred, lies, fraud and theft. Not to mention the fact that the white European's nation state of Canada is built upon the nation, communities, burial grounds, bones and dreams of our Ancestors, our People and the Seventh Generation.

Within the context of the Canadian nation state it is our people who have to "prove something" to the transplanted Europeans' courts/tribunals. Whereas within the Indian homeland context it is the transplanted Europeans that have to prove their criminal, illegal, illegitimate and fraudulent claims to our homeland.

After killing off 95% of our people and deliberately destroying any and all records and evidence with respect to the existence of our peoples' government structure and institutions along with our spiritual institutions those transplanted Europeans now have the audacity to demand that we provide documented evidence showing that our people did in fact occupy our homeland. In all of our dealings with present-day transplanted Europeans all of our people must always keep in mind that present-day transplanted Europeans are the children of assassins, perpetrators of genocide, liars, cheats and thieves and that all are in a conflict of interest position when it comes to adjudicating and determining the rightful owners of our homeland. I will repeat what I have been saying for a long time and will continue to repeat until it actually happens. In our peoples' dispute with the Canadian nation state over the issue of who are the rightful owners of Skijinoweog, our homeland, the only just way to resolve the issue is through the application and adherence to the rule of law and third party adjudication. Anything less is simply more white is right and might is right rhetoric. Which is what got us into the present situation. Our oppressors, the transplanted Europeans, will demonstrate true Christian goodwill if and when they agree to the application and adherence to the rule of law and third party adjudication. Only then will the issue of jurisdiction within our homeland be resolved by an independent unbiased third party. These are the words of a child of genocide
All My Relations,
Dan Ennis,

DEAN'S DEN - OF CHANGES - OF ME

I went for a flight with an old friend
Just a chance for glancing around
And to see how things were different
From standing here on the ground,
Shikatehawk, Monquart, and Bumfrow
Running into the Wulustuk
Muniac Stream and River de Chute
Larlee Creek and then Huds Brook,
The Saint John River - some call it now
By the Tobique and Aroostook fed
With the Trout, Odell, and Lampedo
And the Odellach watershed,
We circled to gaze at the Salmon
Saw the Wapske and Gulquac too
And, tho now it's the Mamozekel
I wonder what name it once knew,
The same with Clearwater and Rocky
Dungarvon and Miramichi
And I thought of the day of the birch canoe
Of time - of changes ... of me!
-D.C. Butterfield

SEPT. TALKING CIRCLE (Tentative schedule only)

The date for the autumn Talking Circle will be Saturday (12 noon) September 11, 2010. We are presently looking at a couple of sites somewhere in the Woodstock area. The exact location will be determined and confirmed in our next issue.

FALLS BROOK 2010 FREE 2-DAY SCHOOL, ANY AGE - (FREE, FREE!!)

Learn from the best, learn from friends, colleagues and peers. Or take part in teaching your skills and talents to many kids who will do the same for you. Have fun. make new friends while you learn and teach. It all happens at Falls Brook Centre in Knowlesville, NB on Sat.&Sun. July 24-25. Registry deadline is July 19th. So get with it right away. All you need to do is to get in touch with Julia at 506-375-4310 or email her anytime at community@fallsbrookcentre.ca